

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SPECIAL REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UPON THE
RECOMMENDATION ON THE STATUS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS
ADOPTED AT 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE

PERMDEL REQUESTED TO TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL REPORT
REGARDING U. S. ACTIONS REGARDING SUBJECT RESOLUTION TO
SECRETARIAT :

"SPECIAL REPORT: ACTION TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES IN
REGARD TO THE UNESCO RECOMMENDATION ON THE STATUS OF
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS

THE UNITED STATES GENERALLY ENDORSES THE PRINCIPLES LAID
DOWN IN THE UNESCO RECOMMENDATION OF THE STATUS OF
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS AND HAS TAKEN STEPS TO BRING IT TO
THE ATTENTION OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS
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CONCERNED WITH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

WITH 1.7 MILLION SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS, OF WHOM 528,000 ARE ENGAGED IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING RESEARCH WORKERS WITH A STATUS CONDUCIVE TO PRODUCTIVE WORK IS EVIDENT.

REFLECTING THE PLURALISTIC NATURE OF AMERICAN SOCIETY,

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORKERS ARE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT A LARGE VARIETY OF INSTITUTIONS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYS ONLY 12 PERCENT OF SUCH WORKERS, WHILE THE MAJORITY (68 PERCENT) ARE EMPLOYED BY INDUSTRY. THIRTEEN PERCENT ARE FOUND IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND 7 PERCENT IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. BOTH BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS AND THE DIVERSITY OF THEIR EMPLOYING INSTITUTIONS, A MULTIPLICITY OF MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTING SOME OF THE PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED IN THE RECOMMENDATION HAS EVOLVED.

THE ROLE OF SCIENTISTS IN POLICY DETERMINATION

PARTICIPATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS IN THE CONTEXT OF FORMULATING NATIONAL POLICY HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNIZED IN THE UNITED STATES AND MECHANISMS FOR INSURING SUCH PARTICIPATION ESTABLISHED. WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, AN OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY HAS BEEN FORMED TO PROVIDE ADVICE ON THE SCIENTIFIC, ENGINEERING, AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF ISSUES THAT REQUIRE ATTENTION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH HAS, FOR ITS PART, ESTABLISHED AN OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT WHOSE FUNCTION IS TO PROVIDE EARLY INDICATION OF THE PROBABLE BENEFICIAL AND ADVERSE IMPACTS OF THE APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY.

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION IS THE PRINCIPAL ORGAN IN THE UNITED STATES FOR THE SUPPORT OF BASIC SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. ITS POLICY MAKING BODY, THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD, HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A SERIES OF FORUMS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE NATION. THE BOARD SEEKS THROUGH THESE FORUMS TO OBTAIN THE VIEWPOINTS OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING SCIENTISTS, CONCERNING ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NATION'S SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOR.

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ALSO SUPPORTS A PROGRAM ON THE HUMAN AND ETHICAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS OF SCIENCE, WHICH CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A GREATER SENSE OF UNITY BETWEEN THE SCIENTIST AND SOCIETY.

THE NONGOVERNMENTAL, DISCIPLINE-ORIENTED, PROFESSIONAL

ORGANIZATIONS OF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ALSO INSURE THAT THE VOICE OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHER IS HEARD IN THE FORMULATION OF PUBLIC POLICY. SUCH ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF POLICY RELATED ACTIVITIES SUCH AS :

11) PREPARING POLICY STATEMENTS TO BE DELIVERED AT LEGISLATIVE HEARINGS, (2) CORRESPONDING WITH GOVERNMENT BODIES ON ISSUES OF PUBLIC POLICY, (3) INFORMING THEIR

MEMBERS, THROUGH THEIR MEETINGS AND PUBLICATIONS, OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS INVOLVING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, (4) DEVOTING A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THEIR ANNUAL MEETINGS TO THE DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY, (5) HOLDING SEMINARS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, (6) MAKING AVAILABLE, AT THEIR EXPENSE, SEVENTEEN OF THEIR MEMBERS FOR ONE-YEAR PERIODS OF SERVICE ON THE STAFF OF THE LEGISLATURE, AND (7) APPOINTING A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY IN THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF EACH SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE TO VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ON MATTERS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY.

IN ADDITION, OTHER ASSOCIATIONS OF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS, HAVING ISSUES OF PUBLIC POLICY AS THEIR PRINCIPAL FOCUS, ENGAGE IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF AFFECTING GOVERNMENT ACTION.

TO IMPROVE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OUTLINING OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY, THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION HAS INSTITUTED FORMAL PROCEDURES BY WHICH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS CAN APPEAL REFUSALS OF SUPPORT FOR THEIR PROPOSED RESEARCH, HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO SCIENTIFIC UNCLASSIFIED

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RESEARCHERS THEIR PEERS' EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSALS UPON WHICH SUPPORT OF THEIR RESEARCH IS BASED, AND HAS SURVEYED THE SCIENCE COMMUNITY ON THEIR OPINION OF THE PROPOSAL-REVIEW PROCESS AND SOUGHT THEIR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, HAS ALSO INSTITUTED A PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION IN SELECTED INSTITUTIONS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING THE PARTICIPATION OF MINORITIES IN THE SCIENCES. FUNDED AT DOLS 5 MILLION A YR, THE PROGRAM ASSISTS SOME 211 INSTITUTIONS TO EQUIP LABORATORIES AND TO DEVELOP THEIR FACULTIES AND CURRICULA. IN ADDITION,

1 MILLION IS ALLOCATED ANNUALLY TO SUPPORT RESEARCH PROPOSALS GENERATED AT SUCH INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE FACULTY MEMBERS TO ENGAGE IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

TO INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE SCIENCES, A PROGRAM, FUNDED AT ALMOST 1 MILLION, SUPPORTS PROJECTS WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS TO TEST METHODS TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN WOMEN IN SCIENTIFIC CAREERS.

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

NONGOVERNMENTAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS HAVE ALSO TAKEN ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MINORITIES, WOMEN, AND THE HANDICAPPED IN THE SCIENCES BY SPONSORING CONFERENCES AND PROJECTS DEALING WITH THEIR PROBLEMS.

TO INSURE CONDITIONS FOR CREATIVE EFFORT ON THE PART OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS, THE NONGOVERNMENTAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS HAVE PROMULGATED GUIDELINES CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIPS OF PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES AND THEIR EMPLOYERS, COVERING TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TERMINATION, AND TRANSFER.

SOME PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE INSTITUTED FORMAL PROCEDURES FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WHO UNCLASSIFIED

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BELIEVE THEY HAVE BEEN TREATED BY THEIR EMPLOYERS IN AN IMPROPER MANNER. THIS MECHANISM INVOLVES AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE FACTS IN THE CASE AND THE CONSIDERATION OF THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT BY A COMMITTEE OF THE ORGANIZATION WHICH SEEKS TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION. EMPLOYERS CONSIDERED TO HAVE TREATED THE ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERS IN AN UNPROFESSIONAL MANNER ARE IDENTIFIED IN THE ORGANIZATION'S JOURNAL.

SOME PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS TO ASSIST MEMBERS IN MEETING THE COSTS OF LITIGATION INVOLVING THEIR PROFESSIONAL STATUS.

IT IS APPARENT THEREFORE, THAT THE CONCERNS REFLECTED IN THE RECOMMENDATION ARE SHARED BY THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO ACT UPON THEM IN A MULTITUDE OF WAYS, SELECTING WHATEVER MEANS IS MOST APPROPRIATE TO A GIVEN SITUATION.; ROBINSON

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